

**From:** MDE-SchoolNutrition  
**Sent:** Friday, May 25, 2012 2:32 PM  
**To:** MDE-SchoolNutrition  
**Subject:** Weekly News from MDE 052312

*The following is sent on behalf of Howard Leikert, Supervisor, School Nutrition Programs, Office of School Support Services.*

Yipes!! In preparing to go on the road in a couple of weeks and teaching the Paid Lunch Equity tool, I learned I have given some inaccurate information. I will start with this correction along with my strong advice:

- 1) Paid Lunch Equity - My quick review of the PLE tool seemed to indicate raises of 10 cents or more would be rare....if your average current lunch price is near \$2.50, you multiply by the new increase percentage of 4.18% THEN you would need to raise prices 10 cents but below \$2.39 it would be rare for a 10 cent increase. But this is NOT how the calculator works. It takes last year's UNROUNDED requirement price to calculate the new target price for the current year. Anyhow, the best way for you to be sure you are in compliance is to fill out the attached spreadsheet and keep it for your records and future audits. I apologize for any confusion but it took me considerable time for me to work through the nuances of the spreadsheet (guess I am not as bright as I thought!!??).
- 2) Community Eligibility Option (CEO) – The CEO application is now available. If you have access to the School Nutrition Program application in MEGS+, your access has been carried over into the CEO application. See the below link for detailed instructions on how to fill out the CEO application. Participating in the Community Eligibility Option allows you to qualify your buildings based on the percentage of Directly Certified students in those buildings. Once your building(s) qualify, the percentage of meals claimed at the free rate is eligible for four (4) years. In an effort to collect the data electronically, we are asking that all sponsors wishing to participate in the CEO for the 2012-2013 school year apply in the MiND system. If you are a returning sponsor, you may use the building numbers utilized in last year's application going into year 2. If your direct certification numbers will show an increase in your claiming percentage, you may apply with new numbers to ensure that the increase in percentage is seen in 2012-2013. As you may recall, the CEO allows districts to serve all students in an eligible building free breakfast and free lunch based on the direct certification rate which needs to be at least 40%. The vast majority of schools that participated last year seem very happy with the results. Please make sure this is the correct financial decision for your district as until you reach a direct cert rate of 62.5% or more (which allows for all meals to be served and CLAIMED free), it is possible the current system will generate more revenues for you and keep costs down (i.e. if you have say only 40% direct cert, you will get 64% meals reimbursed free and 36% reimbursed paid...and you will not get the

paid revenue from students while at the same time more paid students are eating because it is free). Attached is the Calculator to help you determine the best financial decision for your district and we encourage you to use it. Having said all this, the CEO program is a great program in areas of poverty to feed students that need the nutrition without the old stigma of being free or reduced. So here are two links, the first is for instructions on how to fill out the application - [http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEO\\_Application\\_Quick\\_Guide\\_2012\\_386303\\_7.pdf](http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/CEO_Application_Quick_Guide_2012_386303_7.pdf) This second one is a direct link to our Michigan Nutrition Data (MiND) system where you apply for CEO - <https://mdoe.state.mi.us/sfars/mind/mindlogin.aspx> . Our website also has additional information on the CEO program - [www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition](http://www.michigan.gov/schoolnutrition) and then scroll down to the section on CEO.

- 3) Current CEO Participants – Just a reminder that it will be important for districts already participating in the CEO to keep the documentation you used to determine your original eligibility such as direct certification lists and enrollment lists so that 2 or 3 years from now you would still be able to show an auditor how you determined your direct cert rate.
- 4) Project Healthy Schools (PHS) – PHS, a community-University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) collaborative, encourages healthy habits in youth through education, environmental change, and measurement. Their focus is on nutrition and physical activity, and they work with many school districts throughout Michigan. PHS is in the planning stages of a Food Service Summit, in which food service representatives from districts across Michigan could come together to discuss their current programs, share ideas, and learn about new policies and programs in the area of school lunches/nutrition. The summit would likely be held in Ann Arbor, MI, with a tentative date of Friday, August 17, 2012. Please take a few minutes to complete the following survey to better help us plan for this exciting event. Thank you for your time and input. We will be in contact once we have gathered all the information if you/your district has stated interest in participating in the food service summit.  
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/LPZD5MM>
- 5) Asparagus – The past couple of weeks I have been asking you to try asparagus at your schools. If you have tried it at your school and had interesting results, let me know. We would like to be able to share success stories.
- 6) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) – Due to technical difficulties, we will be extending the deadline for application until 11:59 p.m. on May 30, 2012. If you have questions, contact [zunkerg@michigan.gov](mailto:zunkerg@michigan.gov) or 517-241-2096.

- 7) 6 Cents and Other Training Opportunities – In addition to the June trainings we just posted, we anticipate having additional training, if not in July, then August for the various aspects of the Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act. We are waiting for additional guidance from USDA before finalizing any additional training times. We will keep you posted. Please keep checking your email as we approach the end of the school year!!

Sorry this didn't go out until Friday. This week I had one of those unplanned situations that caused me to miss some work time. Have a great weekend!!

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***Each April, Michigan celebrates the Month of the Young Child. Go to [www.miaeyc.org](http://www.miaeyc.org) to learn more.***